

**Annual Report to the
Illinois Supreme Court
Illinois General Assembly
and the Governor of Illinois**

Submitted by:

Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

April 2009

Annual Report to the Illinois Supreme Court, the Illinois General Assembly, and the Governor of Illinois

From: Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission

Introduction

The Supreme Court Historic Preservation Act provides that the Supreme Court Historic Preservation Commission is to file an annual report with the Supreme Court, the Governor and the General Assembly, regarding the Commission's fiscal and program activities.

Program Activities

Centennial Celebration of Supreme Court Building

In May, 2008, the Commission assisted the Supreme Court in commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Supreme Court Building. As a part of this celebration, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia spoke at a dinner held at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Expenses of the dinner were paid with private contributions and not public funds.

Executive Director Hired

The Commission engaged Mr. William L. Wheeler to serve as the Commission's Executive Director. Mr. Wheeler began his employment on April 16, 2009.

Office Space Located

Office space has been identified for the Commission's staff and is presently under negotiation.

Fiscal Expenditures

The only significant expenditure to date was advertising for candidates to fill the Executive Director position. All expenditures are from FY09 and are detailed below:

1273 ADVERTISING \$4,599.00
1289 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES, N.E.C. \$260.00
1239 RENTAL, N.E.C. \$155.00

Planned Activities and Expenditures

Programs and activities are being planned for the remainder of FY 09 and for FY10. It is anticipated that a small staff will be hired and that the Commission will undertake a number of projects and activities including the following:

- Establish an office and staff to carry out the Commission's programs.
- Plan interpretive themes for an exhibit area to be included if capital funds become available to restore the Supreme Court Building.
- Establish a website to inform the public of the Commission's activities.
- Engage in a number of projects, many of them in partnership with bar associations and with historical groups. Those projects are likely to include subjects such as Illinois' most famous

attorney, Abraham Lincoln; biographical sketches of all former Supreme Court Justices and various attorneys with extensive practice in the Supreme Court; oral history of former justices and practitioners; lesson plans and materials for junior high and high school teachers of history and civics; encourage and support scholarship pertaining to the history of Illinois' courts.

Preliminary budgets will be developed in the early months by the Commission and staff along with determining program priorities. Depending upon how fast some of these projects can be developed and the timing of hiring staff, it is anticipated that as much as \$150,000 total may be expended in FY09 with \$800,000 being spent in FY 10.